UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP

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DP/PROJECTS/2646
(ETH/79/003)
28 December 1979

ENGLISH ONLY

APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ETHIOPIA

National Quality Control and Testing Centre (ETH/79/003)

Report of the Administrator*

Date of present approval:	February 1979
Starting date of project activities:	June 1979
Planned completion date:	February 1982
To be executed by:	United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Government implementing agency:	Ethiopian Standards Institution (ESI), Ministry of Commerce and Tourism
Estimated cost of assistance planned under present approval:	$1 421 200
Source of UNDP financing:	Indicative Planning Figure (IPF)

I. Background

1. With an economy that is predominantly agricultural, Ethiopia has small industry and commerce sectors that are growing rather rapidly. The need in this regard has been recognized by the Government to organize industrial and commercial activities in such a way as to rationalize and improve productivity and the quality of products, and to reduce waste. Through standardization and quality control, it is anticipated that other objectives in industrial and commercial production may be achieved. It was with these considerations in mind that the Government requested in 1975 a consultancy mission funded by UNDP with the objective of establishing the groundwork for the establishment of a Quality Control and Testing Centre. The consultant also advised the Ethiopian Standards Institution on the construction and organization of the Centre.

* In accordance with General Assembly resolution 2688 (XXV) and subsequent authorizations of the UNDP Governing Council, reports are issued seriatim on the approval of UNDP assistance of $250,000 or more (including, if any, assistance financed by Government or by third-party cost sharing).

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2. On the basis of the recommendations of the consultancy mission, the Government has decided to proceed with the establishment of the National Quality Control and Testing Centre. Not only will the Centre be instrumental in providing pertinent research and test results necessary for the elaboration of certain national standards where basic local data are required for their finalization but will also facilitate the integration of the standardization procedure with quality-control efforts in the light of prevailing national economic needs.

II. Objectives and activities

3. The immediate objective of the project will be to help to establish within the organizational structure of the Ethiopian Standards Institution (ESI), a National Quality Control and Testing Centre. In this context, the Government has also requested UNDP to support the establishment of testing laboratories and auxiliary services relevant to mechanical and building materials, chemical products, electrical products, textile and leather products, agricultural and food products. The project will also assist in the development of procedures for testing materials, products and commodities, in carrying out research relative to the physical and mechanical characteristics of products their chemical composition, safety, durability, etc., in the training of national staff in various aspects of quality control, and in the operation of a standardization scheme.

III. Inputs

4. Through the technical supervision of the Executing Agency, UNDP will provide for the services of a chief technical adviser experienced in the management of a national standardization institution, and an expert on national quality control and certification schemes. Provision will also be made for a subcontract for fixed-term consultancies in laboratory furnishing, testing of building materials, chemical products, textile products, agricultural and food products, and for equipment maintenance and servicing. Twelve international fellowships of four months each will be provided for technical on-the-job training of national staff, as well as a financial allocation for the purchase of laboratory and logistic equipment. There is also provision for miscellaneous goods and services.

5. The Government will provide project personnel, equipment and miscellaneous items.

IV. Financial data

6. The expenditure components of the planned assistance are as follows:

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Personnel	291 200
Subcontract	250 000
Training	72 000
Equipment	798 000
Miscellaneous	10 000
	1 421 200

7. Of the total amount approved, $33,300 will be for planned expenditure beyond the current IPF period (1979-1982).

8. The estimated total value, expressed in US dollars, of inputs provided directly by the Government to the project is $10,168,100 in kind.

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